

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 as follows:

FIG. 2 shows a section through a second embodiment of a connecting element 21. The connecting element 21 of the second embodiment connects an electrical conductor 12 to a second electrical conductor 13. The connecting element 21 of the second embodiment is of hollow-cylindrical design and is provided at its free ends with a fifth spreading element 22 and a sixth spreading element 23. The fifth and sixth spreading elements 22, 23 have a cylindrical outer contour. The diameters of the outer contour of the fifth spreading element 22 and the sixth spreading element 23 approximately correspond to the diameters of the tube openings in the first electrical conductor 12 and the second electrical conductor 13. In the central section of the connecting element 21 of the second embodiment, the essentially cylindrical connecting element 21 of the second embodiment has approximately the same diameter as the first electrical conductor 12 and the second electrical conductor 13. The inner diameter of the hollow-cylindrical fifth and sixth spreading elements 22, 23 is designed such that it is conically tapered towards the central section of the connecting element 21. A conical first truncated cone 24 is inserted in the conically tapering opening in the fifth spreading element 22. A conical second truncated cone 25 is inserted in the conical opening in the sixth spreading element ~~[[26]]~~ 23. The first truncated cone 24 and the second truncated cone 25 each have a concentrically arranged threaded bolt, which are screwed into a common turnbuckle 26. Owing to a rotary movement of the turnbuckle 26, both the first truncated cone 24 and the second truncated cone 25 can be moved into the respective conical opening in the fifth spreading element 22 and the sixth spreading element 23 in the direction of the central section of the connecting element 21. The bracing movement of the truncated cones 24, 25 which is required for bracing the fifth spreading element 22 and the sixth spreading element 23 is directed parallel to the direction of insertion of the fifth and sixth spreading element 22, 23 in the cutout in the electrical conductors 12, 13. In order to produce the rotary movement of the turnbuckle 26, a toothed rim 27 is arranged on the turnbuckle 26. A toothed wheel 28 can be placed on the toothed rim 27, said toothed wheel 28 engaging through an opening 29 through the wall of the connecting element 21 of the second embodiment. Outside the connecting element 21 of the second

embodiment, the toothed wheel 28 can be driven and, as a result, the turnbuckle 26 can be moved. In the process, the design for the mounting of the toothed wheel 28 can be selected such that it is mounted for the duration of the assembly of the connecting element 21 of the second embodiment or is mounted permanently. Owing to the movement of the truncated cones 24, 25 into the conical openings in the fifth and the sixth spreading element 22, 23, the spreading elements are pressed or braced against the inner walls of the tubular electrical conductors 12, 13. Owing to this bracing, the first electrical conductor 12 makes electrically conductive contact with the second electrical conductor 13 via the connecting element 21 and a mechanically rigid and strain-resistant connection is formed.